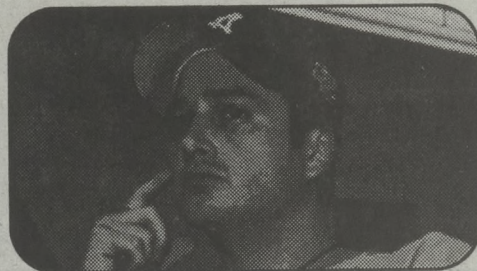


PHOTO ESSAY

Night students get the light shined on them.



PAGE 3

SPORTS

Valley college employee runs the Los Angeles Marathon.



PAGE 4

Valley Star

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 8

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE www.lavc.cc.ca.us

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2000

Campus Scene

UCLA ANNUAL STOMP

■ **When:** Friday 4/28
■ **Time:** 8am - 3pm
■ **Where:** Admin. Bldg. Room 126

UNIVERSITY REPS

Cal-State University Northridge

■ **When:** May 1
■ **Time:** 10am - 1pm

UCLA

■ **When:** May 3
■ **Time:** 9am-3pm
■ **Where:** Career / Transfer Center in Administration Bldg. Room 126 Career Transfer Center

FINAL CONCERT KHATCHATURIAN'S - VIOLIN CONCERTO

■ **When:** May 13
■ **Time:** 8pm
■ **Where:** Valley College Little Theatre and a Tribute to Aaron Copland on 100th Anniversary of his birth.

TRANSFER RECEPTION FOR STUDENTS

■ **When:** May 16
■ **Time:** 2pm-4pm
■ **Where:** Monarch Hall
■ **Additional Information:** Refreshments served and a raffle drawing for scholarships will be done.
■ **Sign up by May 12 at Career & Transfer Center**

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

■ **When:** May 2
■ **Time:** 12:15pm
■ **Where:** Fireside Rm, Campus Center

GREASE

■ **When:** April 27, 28, 29 and May 4, 5, 6
■ **Time:** 8pm
■ **Where:** Little Theatre

Multicultural Passover at Valley

■ **HOLIDAY:** West African and Reggae music meets the Middle East in celebration of Jewish roots.

By BAXTER CEPEDA
STAR REPORTER

An ensemble of singers, dancers and drummers sponsored by Hillel, the Jewish student group, performed reggae and West African arrangements of traditional Jewish songs at Valley on April 18.

In front of a rain-drenched crowd of about 100 at Monarch hall, Alan Eder and Friends presented their more than 30 member music and dance ensemble and literally had people dancing in the aisles.

"We're playing songs of freedom, which is music for the holiday Passover," said Alan Eder, music director of the band.

Among the show's highlights was the song "Four Questions," which asked the musical question, "Do you like peanut butter and jelly on your matzah?"

"Anytime you are happy about what a holiday is, is to be alive," Eder said.

"We try to get the message of



Barret Oliver/Valley Star

Dancers jump to the beat in celebration of Passover.

globalization out there," said Kobla Ladzekpo, an African drumming and dancing instructor at Cal Arts. "That is the whole idea."

Ladzekpo and Eder have been running the multicultural band for more than 20 years, with Beatrice Lalulu, Ladzekpo's wife, supervising the dancing ensemble.

"The performance was nice," Ladzekpo said. "I expected more

students to show up. Unfortunately people have their own things to do."

Evan Frazer, a percussionist with the band, added some American techno beats with a jew's harp, a small metal folk instrument held between the teeth which, when plucked by the finger, produces a "twanging" sound.

"Whats so beautiful about this group is that so many cultures

can come together and jam," Frazer said.

The eight piece band included Dwayne Poli on the drums; Tyle Grant on guitar; Shane Jordan, on bass; and Richard Siedler handling the keyboards. The brass section included Erik Sparr on trombone, Jeff Eliason on trumpet and James Kane on the saxophone.

"Alan showed great leadership today because he really helped

me with the notes even during the performance," said guitarist Jordan, who was playing with the band for the first time.

The performance was a return engagement for the band, who played last semester when Hillel marked its 36th year of service at Valley with a joint celebration of Valley's 50th anniversary.

Tax season brings everyone out into the night life

■ **DEADLINE:** Yearly rush to file income tax returns not as frantic as in previous years.

By SHERRI BASSO
STAR REPORTER

Procrastinating income tax filers rushed to the Studio City post office late Monday night as the 11:59 p.m. postmark deadline drew near for many local residents.

The post office had a steady flow of customers as late as 11:30 p.m. Filers ran in, filled out forms in the lobby and opted to hand in their mail instead of using the boxes outside.

"This year has been a lot more relaxed than others," said Mike Munoz, supervisor at the Studio City post office. "We just got a report from Burbank and people are kind of crazy over there."

For some, waiting until the last minute is a yearly ritual. For others, complicated returns, out-of-state W-2 forms and owing more in taxes caused the delay.

"I knew I was going to have to pay a little bit and I figured, why get it in ahead of time," said Andy Holeman, who tried unsuccessfully to file via the Internet. "They took enough throughout the year."

The April 15 deadline fell on a Saturday this year, giving filers an extra two days to complete and mail their returns.

"I filed on time the last three years, but this year it just didn't seem to happen," said Mark Meyers, an actor, who was filing an extension in the lobby. "I need, like, an extra four months."

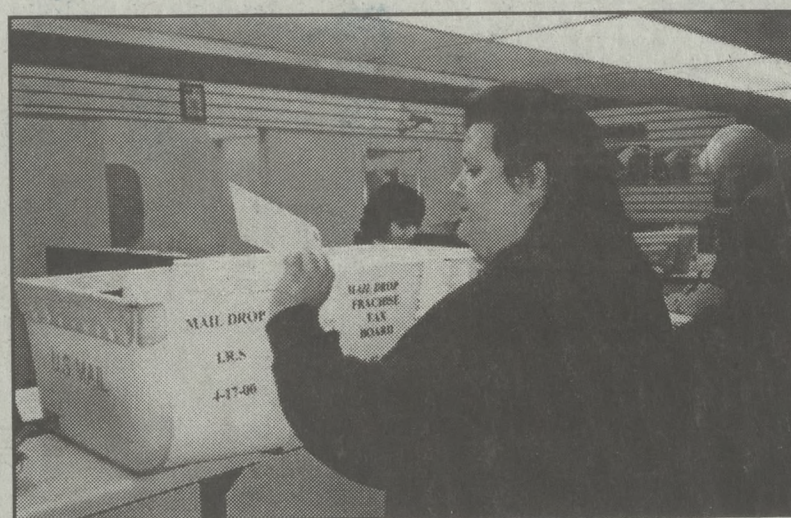
If an individual cannot meet the deadline, they must file form 4868, "an application for an automatic extension of time to file a U.S. individual tax return," said Andrew Lawley, an IRS employee.

The application, which is also due by the April 15 deadline, gives the person an extra four months to file, but doesn't

extend the amount of time to pay the taxes due. The taxpayers must estimate what they owe and send it in with the form. If additional time is required beyond the four month deadline, they must file form 2688, which allows for another two month extension.

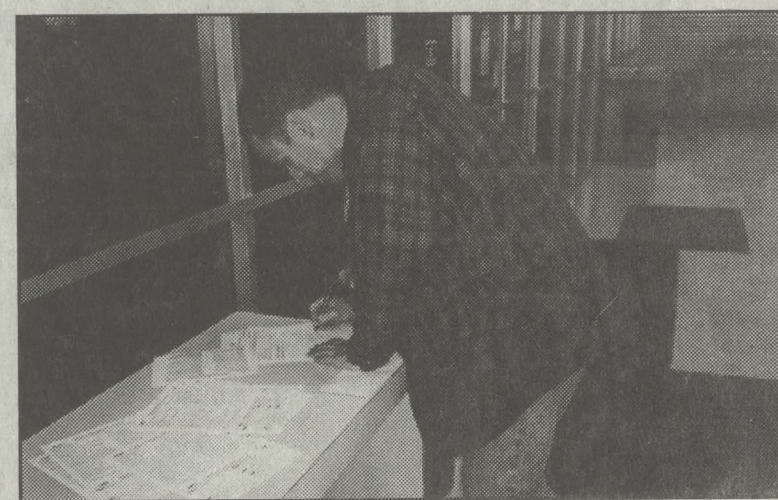
Not all post offices extended their hours on Monday. Some latecomers arrived from surrounding areas to find a post office or box that was postmarking late.

"I'm from Los Feliz, so luckily this place was open," said Kulap Vilaysack, who admitted to always being late. "All the post office boxes around me were closed."



Sandra Woodring hand delivers her income tax return to in the Studio City post office.

Courtesy of Sherri Basso/Valley Star



Mark Myers fills out an extension, form 4868, in the lobby of the Studio City post office.

1) 4/13
Grand Theft Auto
Vehicle Stolen
Lot G

2) 4/17
Burglary Motor Vehicle
Lot C

3) 4/18
Traffic Accident
Student kills w/Stop Sign
Lot A

4) 4/19
Hit & Run
Misdemeanor Motor Vehicle
Suspect left scene
Lot A

5) 4/24
Burglary Motor Vehicle
Lot A
CD/Stereo stolen

Crime Watch

Thursday, April 27, 2000

Valley Star

Competition is best defense against Ticketmaster prices

Ticketmaster has monopolized the world of ticket sales so badly, it makes Microsoft look like a children's lemonade stand. They have 3000 outlets across Southern California alone and are the quickest to sell out of available tickets for an event.

Until recently, Ticketmaster's only competitors were small, legitimate businesses, who buy most of their tickets from Ticketmaster anyway, then jack up the "surcharges" even higher. The only other competitors are the good old scalpers outside our favorite arenas, concert halls and stadiums across the country.

Now a new company, Tickets.com, is doing battle in cyberspace with Ticketmaster. Ticketmaster is so much larger than Tickets.com that their ad

campaigns don't even compare.

However, this new competition, as small as it is, shows a healthy trend that will possibly lead Ticketmaster, which is just a small part of a larger empire, to re-evaluate its present policies.

Ibee Shageki, a scalper outside the Staples Center, says that all scalpers are aware that they prey on public demand but says that Ticketmaster does the same thing, only with legal sanction.

All this mess shouldn't even be going on in a country where the government is supposed to protect the consumer from monopolies.

But the best way to fix the problem doesn't require any legal changes at all. Do as the Dodgers have done in their suc-

cessful history: sell directly to the fans.

Unfortunately, with the O'Malleys gone and Rupert Murdoch's "business over history" approach to things, the Dodgers themselves may soon find themselves joining the ranks of teams and performers who reach their fans through Ticketmaster.

We on the editorial board of the Star think that Ticketmaster controls too much of the event ticket marketplace, and we support and encourage smaller businesses to help level the playing field.

Competition is the public's best chance to lower ticket prices or at least keep them from escalating further than they already have.

Student sees double standard in guidelines for Valley Star writers and the letter writing public.

Loved your article on April 6 (The Senior Freshman, "Reason triumphs over homophobia at Valley"). The only problem I have is that I feel that the Star does in fact practice censure.

Not for its staff though, they appear to have free reign on opinions that they hold and those opinions were printed, but if I as a student want to address the paper, I have quite a few rules to follow. I take this from the "Write us a letter" box. I interpret the meaning to be that I have to be careful what I write to the paper and the paper has the right to censure what I write but not the reporters.

I too believe in free speech. I also believe in responsible journalism. I want to see Miss AliDinar write more, but conscientiously. When I write, I consider what effect my pen and paper will have on those who read it. I write for a reason. Personally I hope that Miss AliDinar will learn from this experience and that it will make her a better writer.

Please look over the instructions in the letter box and then read her article again. Can you see the discrepancies that I do? I only want a fair playing field. I know that the box isn't your doing but perhaps your invitation to contact you can open some dialogue that will bring about some changes.

I enjoy your articles and look forward to seeing more. If you want to, go ahead and forward this to the paper. Maybe they will want to address this or at least explain why it has to be different rules for us outsiders.

Take care.
Blanche Knight
LAVC Student

Editor's note: All the letters we receive are published unedited except when necessary to condense them for space or profanity. Denigrations or ephitets by any writer, either on our staff or from our readers would also be cut, but the offensive language in the article you cite is the Bible's not AliDinar's.

Valley Star staff must pay more attention to proofreading for spelling errors.

I just wanted to let you know that there is a great book available, which you will find very useful. It is known as a dictionary. It will not only tell you the meanings of common words; but, amazingly enough, how to spell them.

I know that recent court decisions have removed editorial control from School Administrators, but that does not release the staff from spell checking. With the number of people who are listed on the masthead, someone should be able to proof the pages BEFORE it is printed.

As the son of a (sic) two founding members of the "Valley Star" staff, I am at time (sic) ashamed to show the current state of the paper to anyone.

Maybe this will show you that someone actually cares what is produced by your staff.

William Raddatz
Community Services

Column on abortion applauded by student.

The Thursday, Feb. 2, 2000, Valley Star column, "To My Way Of Thinking," by Ms. Amirah AliDinar addressed abortion as "the cowardly way out." I applaud Ms. AliDinar's declaration that the fetus is a "living being by any biological standard," and her astute connection between the

acceptance of killing the unborn and our culture's increased desensitization to violence and murder. I was appalled, however, that her "best solution" was Norplant, which is an abortifacient!

Norplant is a series of capsules encased under the skin. This product however is not a "preventative" to pregnancy as AliDinar seems to think. The ovum can still be fertilized, a new life is still conceived, but the chemical compounds in the woman's system, as a result of Norplant, cause her body to expel the fertilized egg before it can implant in the lining of the uterus. IUD's (intrauterine devices) some birth control pills, and the "morning after pill" employ the same mechanisms. They don't prevent conception at all, but rather, they actually cause an abortion.

Scientific evidence establishes life begins the moment sperm and egg unite into a new DNA blueprint for a human being. Any procedure, surgical or chemical, which intervenes in the development of that life is an abortion. No one knows exactly when a person's soul enters the process, but it's a safe bet it doesn't happen before the new DNA blueprint for that person exists, therefore it must be some point after. Since "when" a person becomes a person is the key to the morality of the abortion issue, it is even more callous that we throw away completely unique, precious human beings for the sake of convenience, without even acknowledging their presence.

Perhaps that is the key, however. Maybe we don't want to think about the millions of gifted, compassionate, gentle, wise and loving people who have been lost. Maybe we want what we want no matter who gets hurt, or what it costs. What a pity that AliDinar's suggestion is for those engaging in "recreational sex" to be more responsible by using an abortifacient. This seems to be the ultimate disrespect for life.

Surgical abortions are performed for convenience 90 percent of the time, and I agree it is a cowardly way out. It takes something as powerful and enduring as a mother's love, to choose life when the personal cost might be great. But aborting lives through a chemical process for the sake of "recreational sex," degrades us all even further.

What if, instead of promoting products designed to keep abortion "private" (RU-486, the morning after pill, M&M), we committed to making abortion unnecessary and undesirable? What if people decided the cost for "recreational sex," was simply too high --- one in five Americans infected with STDs, thousands dying from AIDS, 38 million abortions since 1973 --- and instead decided to demonstrate what love really is (caring about someone else more than yourself) by waiting for sex until marriage? What if men and women who created new lives were willing to lay down their own to protect and defend them, regardless of what it cost them personally? Maybe you think no one would do it...but it could start with you and me.

Gladys Hogins,
Student

Editor's note: Both are correct. According to Planned Parenthood, Norplant is used to prevent the release of the egg. If an egg is released and fertilized, Norplant will prevent it from being implanted.

Teacher takes issue with "Uri" cartoonists.

Regarding the "URI" cartoon in the April 18 issue, on April 27 the history department will award \$2500 in student scholarships.

The dogs you see on campus are walked by their owners, and return to homes and families.

The abandoned cats on our campus are fed by private contribution. No public money is involved

Jack Arnot
Professor
History Dept.

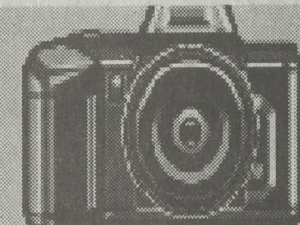


PHOTO SURVEY

What would you change about Valley College if you could?



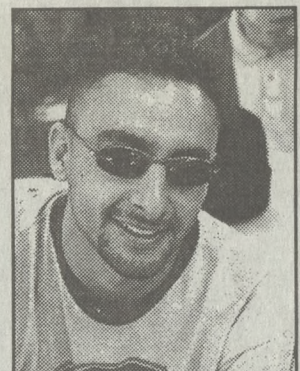
"The food needs to be improved, and prices are too high."

Delia Aguirre
Office
Administration
major



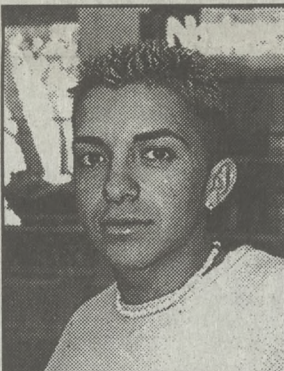
"I'd improve the landscaping near the bungalows."

Sara Pelow
Psychology major



"Get rid of the bungalows."

Givargis Gangeh
Geography major



"I'd change the dance studio and the sound system, because the sound system is 50 years old."

Luis Trujillo
Theater Arts/Dance
major

Karen Goldman/Valley Star

California dreamers get their attitude from the spirit of the pioneers

By ROBERT B. DEMPCY
STAR REPORTER

If you could choose a method of transportation to the West Coast would it be a train or Conestoga wagon? In 1846, American George Donner of Illinois had little choice. He headed a party of pioneers that left for California. The settlers got as far as the Sierra Nevada Mountains where the trip came to a tragic end. In order to survive, the living cannibalized the dead.

The saga of the Donner party is part of California history. The adventurous attitude that made them come here remains a legacy to the residents of the Golden State to this day. However, today the virtues that were once lauded in a pioneer would be regarded as a stigma. For a man or woman to set out into unknown territory took more than courage; it took the innocence of a dreamer. Pioneers were like children with their palms and noses pressed against a candy store window.

In modern day California, the media have manufactured the image that California is the capital of all that is holy and rotten in America. We are seen in our journey from pueblo to skyscraper to have become a seismic mass of sun baked air heads in search of a good time. Ethics. If you want ethics, move to Wichita!

The image of Californians as a group of unfettered hedonists is a perception that has been painted with a broad brush. It is a distortion, like graffiti on a masterpiece.

California is a mosaic made up of people of various ages and hues. Our economy by itself rates number six in the world. A pioneering spirit built it, and a good work ethic maintains it.

Brave, dreamer, or beach bum, whatever the image, it's our cross to bear. So, somebody call Huell Howser at KCET, order some take out of Kosher enchilada from Wong's Diner, and everybody smile when the camera gets here because that attitude of yours is a legacy of California's gold.

Only the unsigned editorials in the Star represent the official opinions of the Valley Star. All columns and letters reflect the views of the individual authors.

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For your information

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Write us a letter.....

The Valley Star would love to receive and, if possible, publish your letters. We reserve the right to condense letters for space considerations. Letters are limited to 250 words and are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. They must be signed and include the student's ID number. Letters may be addressed to the Valley Star c/o Los Angeles Valley College, 5800 Fulton Valley Glen, CA 91401 or left in the news room in BJ 114 by Friday morning for the next publication. They can also be placed in our mailboxes attached to one of our three yellow news stands, or e-mailed to vstar@emilaccd.cc.ca.us.

Valley's Night Owls³

Valley Star

Thursday, April 27, 2000

Top right: Dinner time for night students often constitutes buying junk food and coffee from a vending machine, then hurrying back to class.

Middle right: By day, Valley College night student Michael Simbana works at a clinic in Sherman Oaks as an X-ray technician. By night, he attends school with expectations of earning his bachelors for a physician's assistant.

Walking in the parking lots at night can be very dangerous, especially for female students. At lower right, a female student receives an escort to her car from two of Valley's police student workers.

Many single working parents who go to school must sometimes bring their children with them to class. At bottom left, Consuela Hadnot listens to lecture while her daughter, Dalaejah Mack, sits next to her and draws.

Working adults who are changing careers have to apply their multi-tasking skills to school. At bottom right, Beth Carpenter, left, and Marilyn Strong, right, are studying statistics while eating dinner.

*Photos and Text
by
Katherine Lustig*

